

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claim 19 has been amended to address the rejection thereof. Claim 19 has also been amended to clarify Applicant's invention. It is to be noted that these amendments only make explicit that which was already implicit in the claim and thus does not represent an amendment made for purposes of patentability.

Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 19, 20, 22 and 24-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Griesau et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,306). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Griesau et al.

As amended claim 19 now explicitly specifies “ (a) user activation of at least one of the functional buttons to cause the lights to turn on in sequence without further user activation of any button .” (emphasis added). In contrast, Griesau et al requires further user activation of buttons to turn on lights in sequence. In particular, Griesau et al requires further actuation of button 40 and one of there buttons 50, See, for example, Griesau et al . Col. 4, line 48 to Col.5, line 5:

“Changing Operating Modes With reference to again FIG. 3, processor 60 (FIG. 2) may be programmed so that changing the operating mode of universal remote control unit 10 comprises pressing DEVICE push button 40 (FIG. 1), for example, at 100, pressing one of mode push buttons 50 (FIG. 1) at 104, and determining whether the mode push button was pressed within a predetermined amount of time at 106. If one of the mode push buttons 50 is selected within the predetermined amount of time, at 108 the operating mode is set and/or changed to the activated mode push button. This predetermined amount of time may be from about five to about ten seconds, and desirably corresponds to the current operating amount of time for illuminating the mode push button corresponding to the current operating mode. With reference again to FIG. 1, for example, after pressing DEVICE push button 40, and while the mode push button corresponding to the current operating

mode is illuminated, e.g., TV push button 54, the user can select a different device to operate by pressing one of the other non-illuminated mode push buttons 50, e.g., CABLE push button 52, VIDEO push button 56, or AUDIO push button 58. Desirably, when a non-illuminated mode push button 50 is selected, the mode push button illuminates, for example, blinks and then goes out, at 108 (FIG. 3).”

Thus, Griesau clearly does not disclose causing the lights to turn on in sequence without further user activation of any button , Nor does Griesau suggest such a mode of operation. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claim 19 is clearly not anticipated or rendered obvious by Griesau et al.

Claims 20, 22 and 24-25 are dependent from claim 19 and, therefore, are patentable for the same reason, as well as because of the combination of the features set forth in these claims with the features set forth in claim19.

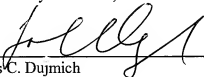
Claim 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Griesau et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,306) further in view of McConnell et al.(U.S. Patent No.5,872,562). Claim 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Griesau et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,306) further in view of Huang et al.(U.S. Patent No.6,437,836). Claims 21 and 23 are dependent from claim 19 and, therefore, are patentable for the same reason, as well as because of the combination of the features set forth in these claims with the features set forth in claim19.

In view of the foregoing this application is believed in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

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MP/fs

Respectfully submitted,



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